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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Thursday 18 May 1978

CG NIDC 78/116C

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**NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION**

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Thursday, 18 May 1978.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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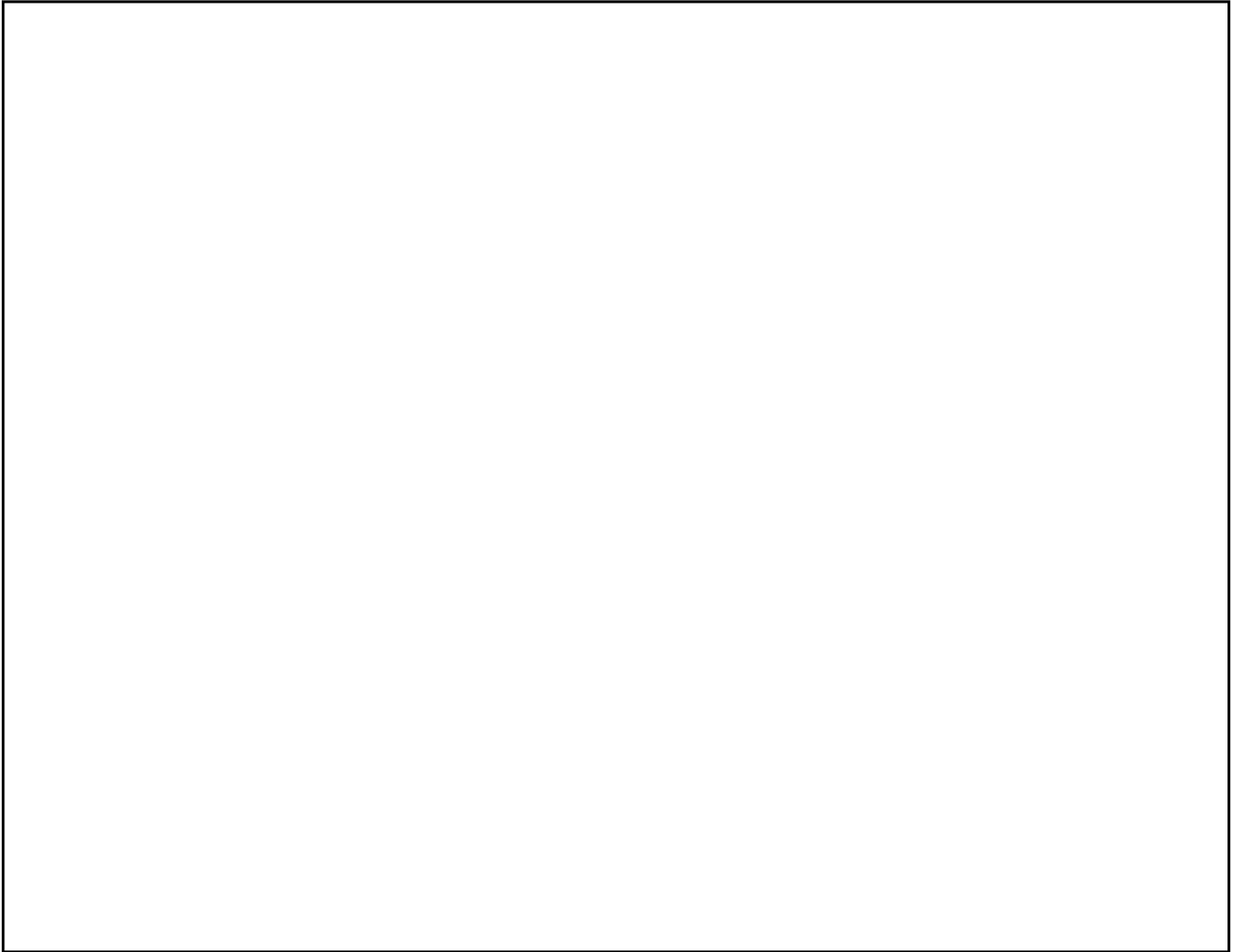
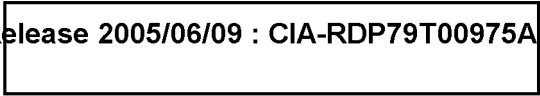
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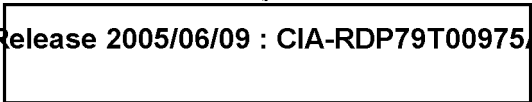
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**NAMIBIA: Plans for Voter Registration**

*[Redacted] South African Foreign Minister Botha yesterday informed envoys of the five Western sponsors of a settlement proposal for Namibia that South Africa will soon begin a registration of voters in preparation for an election to select a Namibian constituent assembly. Botha also said that his government will invite UN Secretary General Waldheim to send a special representative to determine whether the registration procedure*



*is in accord with UN guidelines. In response to the envoys' urgent request not to publicize the plan until their governments could consider it, Botha obtained South African Prime Minister Vorster's agreement to delay the announcement for a few weeks.*

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[ ] //The decision to register voters, even though the South-West Africa People's Organization and the UN Security Council have not accepted the Western settlement plan, appears to be Vorster's response to conflicting domestic and international pressures. Since South Africa accepted the Western proposal three weeks ago, prominent figures in the South African National Party have urged the government to announce a target date for an election if SWAPO does not soon accept the plan.

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[ ] //The subsequent South African raids against SWAPO bases in Angola provoked the SWAPO leaders to suspend settlement talks with the Western contact group but did not dispel domestic political pressures on Vorster to carry out unilaterally a promised independence program for Namibia by the end of the year.//

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[ ] //Since the raids on SWAPO bases, Western envoys have urged the South Africans to take positive measures that might encourage SWAPO to accept the settlement plan. In response, the South African Department of Foreign Affairs has reportedly considered releasing some of the SWAPO activists who are under detention inside Namibia.//

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[ ] //Vorster apparently hopes that going ahead with a voter registration will reassure those who are demanding some progress toward electing a constituent assembly, without incurring the adverse international reactions that would result from unilaterally setting an election date.//

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[ ] Botha told the Western envoys yesterday that the registration plan could be revised to satisfy a UN representative, even if he does not go to Namibia until after the registration is completed. Botha no doubt recognizes that Waldheim is unlikely to send an observer to Namibia unless the settlement plan is accepted by SWAPO and the Security Council.

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[ ] Yesterday the Western envoys warned Botha that SWAPO supporters inside Namibia would be very likely to boycott a voter registration that is held before the SWAPO leaders accepted the

settlement plan and that such a boycott would discredit the registration internationally. Such arguments apparently prompted Botha to urge Vorster to delay announcing the voter registration.

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# BRIEFS

## China-USSR

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[ ] China yesterday demanded a more "honest" explanation from the USSR of the recent Soviet intrusion into northeastern China, restating the Chinese view that the incident was an organized "military provocation" and not a case of "inadvertent trespass." Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Yu Chan, in an oral response to the Soviet note of 12 May expressing "regret" over the incident, told the Soviet Ambassador that China had "taken note" of the Soviet message but disagreed with its characterization of the incident.

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[ ] In a point-by-point refutation of the Soviet account, Yu took special issue with the contention that Soviet troops did not use force; he referred several times to "wounded Chinese inhabitants." Yu demanded that the USSR "honestly admit its wrongdoing" and take "effective measures" to prevent future such incidents. Yu's presentation--which China published yesterday--concluded that "the Chinese side awaits a formal reply."

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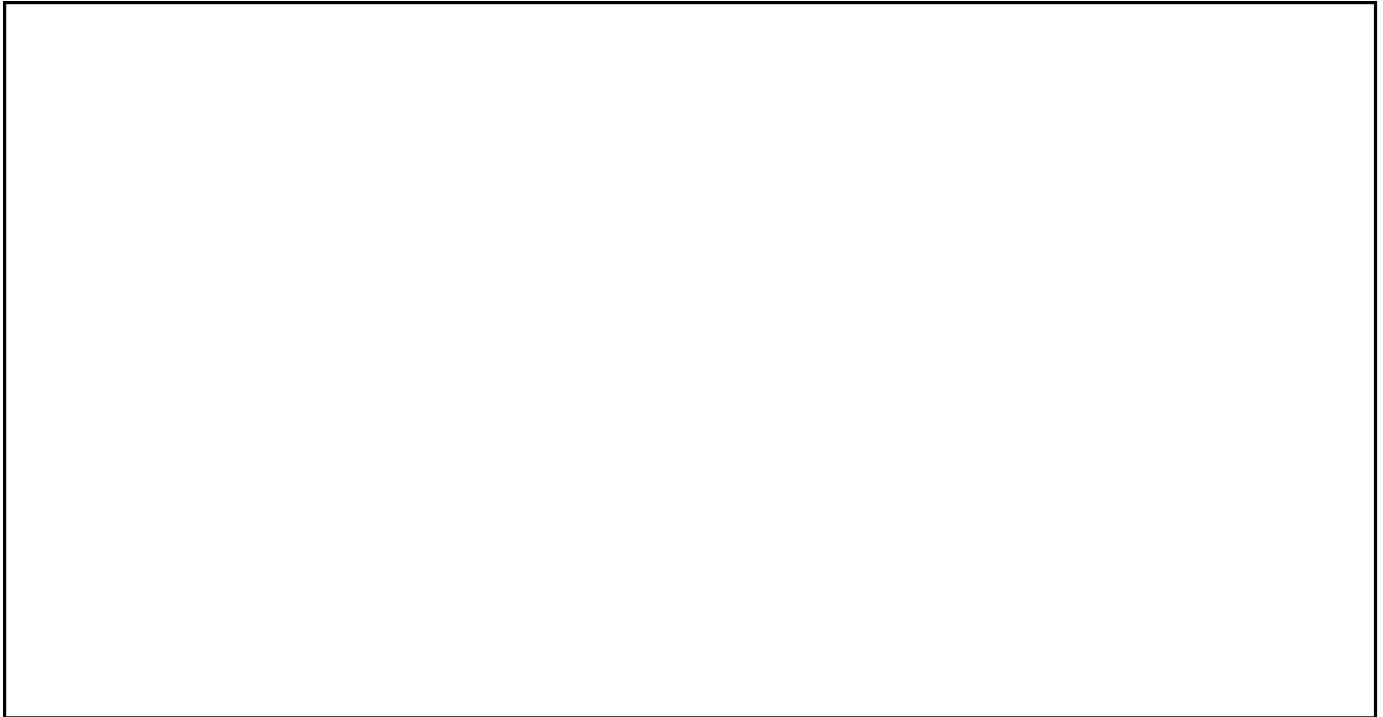
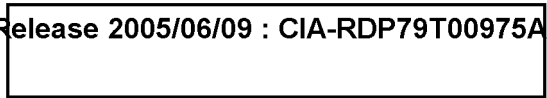
## Guinea

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[ ] Guinean President Sekou Toure on Sunday released and granted amnesty to a second large group of political prisoners, many of them prominent, in another major move toward reconciliation following antiregime riots last fall. The release coincided with the 31st anniversary of the Guinean Democratic Party. Others will be freed in the near future, probably including the Catholic Archbishop of Conakry, Raymond Tchidimbo, whose freedom has been the subject of protracted negotiations with the Vatican through Liberian intermediaries.

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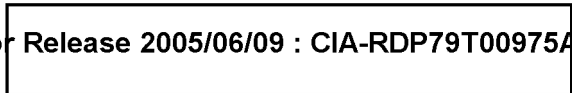
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Romania

[redacted] Romania boosted retail prices on a limited number of imported consumer goods and on a variety of consumer services early this month after years of relatively stable prices. The increases will reduce consumer living standards, but there have been no reports of adverse popular reactions.

[redacted] Further price boosts are likely if Romania eliminates consumer goods subsidies, a move that has been under consideration since March. The government is apparently trying to free funds for investment and additional purchases of raw materials in order to maintain a rapid rate of economic growth. [redacted]

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